

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention is directed to a method and apparatus for monitoring the status of manufacturing products continuously according to one of a plurality of manufacturing processes. It is determined whether at least a predetermined manufacturing program out of a plurality of manufacturing programs corresponding to the plurality of manufacturing processes has been executed. The number of operations executed for manufacturing products according to the predetermined manufacturing program is stored, when it is determined that the predetermined manufacturing program has been executed. And, the stored number of operations executed for manufacturing the products according to the predetermined manufacturing program is output. Accordingly, when a license agreement is provided for a property covering the products or the process for manufacturing the products, it can be determined if the products or the process made or used by a licensee is covered by the licensed property, on the basis of operation of the predetermined manufacturing program. It may be so constituted that the predetermined manufacturing program is stored through a communication device, and that the status of manufacturing products is transmitted through the communication device.